

**Connecticut General Assembly
Appropriations Committee
March 22, 2013
TESTIMONY FOR PUBLIC HEARING:
House Bill 5013, House Bill 5454, and House Bill 6354**

Senator Harp, Representative Walker, Ranking Members, and members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Patrice Peterson and I'm the president of CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, a union that represents 27,500 state, municipal, and private sector employees and retirees across the state of Connecticut. I'm also a special education teacher for the Department of Developmental Services. CSEA represents employees across state service; from highway engineers in the Department of Transportation to Captains and Lieutenants in the State Police. On behalf of CSEA's members, I submit the following testimony:

CSEA is opposed to House Bill 5013: An Act Concerning Certain Agreements Or Stipulations Required To Be Approved By The General Assembly and House Bill 5454: An Act Concerning Voting By The General Assembly On Collective Bargaining Agreements And Agreements And Stipulations In Connection With A Lawsuit are solutions in search of a problem which does not exist. The current process of approving collective bargaining agreements works and should be continued. It is a process which has served the state through Republican and Democratic leadership.

I urge the members of this committee to reject these legislative proposals.

CSEA also represents construction project managers and other professional employees in the Department of Construction Services (DCS). House Bill 6354's proposal to consolidate DCS into the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and then move some of the existing DCS staff to the Board of Regents (BOR) and State Department of Education (SDE) is shortsighted and will only hinder Connecticut's ability to implement key construction projects.

The consolidation of all construction related services into one agency is still a fairly new arrangement for Connecticut and should be given time to work. Unfortunately, House Bill 6354's proposal would remove key staff from DCS while not providing BOR or SDE the complete compliment of construction professionals needed to move forward on the \$800 million of construction projects at various stages of development.

I urge the members of this committee to reject this section of House Bill 6354.

Patrice Peterson
President, CSEA/SEIU, Local 2001